

Education & Development

2003 Traffic Adjudication Workshop

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) will present a three-day traffic adjudication workshop June 9-11 in San Francisco. The purpose of the workshop is to promote traffic safety and greater uniformity in traffic adjudication through an exchange of information among bench officers hearing traffic cases, representatives of law enforcement, and other interested parties. Funding for the program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

The workshop will address such topics as commercial vehicle offenses; drug recognition standards and procedures; DUI field sobriety test standards; license restrictions and suspension; speed and photo red light enforcement; prevention and diversion programs for youth; and ignition interlock provisions. It will also enable workshop participants, as a group, to identify their concerns regarding the adjudication and processing of traffic cases and to develop and propose solutions such as rules of court, legislation, and community outreach.

● For more information, contact Lisa R. Graves, Supervising Administrative Coordinator for the AOC's traffic program, 415-865-7622; e-mail: lisa.graves@jud.ca.gov.

CJER Debuts 'Leadership Expedition'

The Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) introduced a first-of-its-kind leadership program for senior and mid-level managers in the courts. The Leadership Expedition uses in-person and online classes, one-on-one coaching, peer groups, and self-paced study to challenge participants' assumptions about court management and help them develop into court leaders.

Effective leadership and management require a variety of abilities, skills, knowledge, and management techniques. This new program illustrates several business management models that give participants a wide array of tools for use at their courts. The program looks at what other organizations in both the private and public sectors are doing to overcome many of the same challenges court leaders face.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

The Leadership Expedition is a four-month interactive program that requires each participant to attend four face-to-face sessions, participate in three online sessions, read from leadership literature, practice applying what has been discussed, and make two presentations with a team. Throughout the program, participants will discuss "best practices" from the courts, from the private sector, and from history.

A group of court leaders is collectively developing the

court-specific aspects of the program to ensure that it is relevant for participants. These leaders include Rachelle Agatha, Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Amador County; Margie Borjon-Miller, Deputy Executive Officer of the Superior Court of Ventura County; and Dawn Diestelkamp, Information Systems Manager of the Superior Court of Fresno County and chair of CJER's Managers/Supervisors Education Committee. Ms. Agatha and Ms. Borjon-Miller also will serve on the faculty for the program.

PRACTICAL TOOLS

The Leadership Expedition not only provides participants with leadership theory but facilitates plans for translating vision into action in the courts. Each participant will learn to:

- Develop a leadership plan;
- Clearly describe his or her vision, both in writing and orally to a team;
- Communicate his or her values; and
- Overcome challenges to leadership.

In addition, the program will offer guidance on adjusting action plans, making plans sustainable, and teaching others to become leaders.

CJER is offering the Leadership Expedition in March and again in July.

● For more information, contact Matthew Richter, 415-865-7748; e-mail: matthew.richter@jud.ca.gov.

addition, the report presents examples of how courts might deal with these changes to better serve the public.

NCSC's trends report addresses issues such as the death penalty, budget reductions, court security, integrated criminal justice information systems, public access to court records, teen courts, and jury service. It also provides a "What to Watch" section in which it highlights issues that will come to the forefront of judicial administration in the near future.

The trends report is accompanied by the 2002 version of *An Environmental Scan for the State Courts*, which examines emerging issues beyond the criminal justice system that may have impacts on the courts. For example, it mentions such factors as pollution and environmental degradation, international trade agreements, and global terrorism and homeland security.

● To view the trends and environmental reports, visit the NCSC's Web site at www.ncsconline.org/d_kis/trends/trends02mainpage.html. For more information, contact the NCSC's Knowledge and Information Services Office via e-mail at knowledge@ncsc.dni.us.

Judicial Leadership Directory Updated

Capitol Enquiry, publishers of the *Pocket Directory of the California Legislature* and the *California State Agency Directory*, in February published an updated directory of the state's judicial leaders. The *Pocket Directory of California Judicial Leaders* is a 124-page booklet that includes rosters and contact information for Supreme Court justices, appellate court presiding justices and clerk/administrators, and presiding judges and executive officers of the superior courts, as well as the members of the Judicial Council and its committees and task forces.

The directory also includes a chart of the California judicial branch, a calendar of key dates for the judiciary, maps of appellate districts and superior court jurisdictions, and facts on the California judicial system.

Compiled in cooperation with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the directory was distributed in February to judicial leaders, the courts, and representatives of the other branches of state government. Additional copies for the courts are available from the AOC; others can buy the directory from Capitol Enquiry for \$19.95 (order at www.capenq.com).

● For additional copies of the *Pocket Directory of California Judicial Leaders*, call the California Courts Infoline at 800-900-5980 or e-mail pubinfo@jud.ca.gov. ■

News From The AOC

The Administrative Office of the Courts publishes several newsletters about aspects of court business. Visit these online on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov or on Serranus, the secure site of the state judicial branch, at <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov>. To subscribe to any of the newsletters, contact pubinfo@jud.ca.gov.

CAPITOL CONNECTION

Single-source update on legislative issues affecting the judicial branch and information regarding the legislative process. Distributed monthly via e-mail. See www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/capconn.htm.

CFCC UPDATE

Reports on developments in family and juvenile law, including innovative programs; case law summaries; grants and resources; and updates on legislation, rules, and forms. Published three times a year. See www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/cfcc/resources/publications/newsletter.htm.

COURT NEWS

Award-winning bimonthly newsmagazine for court leaders, reporting on developments in court administration statewide. Indexed from 2000 at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtnews.

HR CONNECT

Monthly update on human resources issues and programs in the state judicial branch. See http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/hr/hr_connect.htm.

Facilitator Training



Family law facilitators from throughout the state came together to update their skills at the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco on February 20-21. The 2003 Family Law Facilitators Training focused on recent developments at the Department of Child Support Services and provided an update on budgets, accounting, new child support rules and forms, and administration issues.

The training included workshops addressing a review of ethical guidelines, "stress busting" and hostility management, new forms that can be filled out online, bias issues, mandatory data collection, and videoconferencing. The training also provided a forum for roundtable discussions, in which the participants shared resources and ideas for procedures.

RESOURCES

NCSC Releases Annual Trends Report

Crime is on the rise, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Murder, rape, robbery, and other offenses included in the Crime Index increased 2.1 percent from 2000 to 2001, the first year-to-year increase since 1991. With a shaky economy, the odds for short-term improvement in crime rates are poor.

Just as crime is increasing, state budget conditions threaten many diversionary programs that offer mental health and substance abuse treatment as well as other social services. Many of these programs are not adequately funded in the best financial times. Cuts to court budgets will increase the likelihood that such services will be lost and defendants will end up in the criminal justice system.

These observations are just a few of the trends identified by the National Center for State Courts in its *2002 Report on Trends in the State Courts*. The report explores recent nationwide trends and explains their relevance to state courts. In



Court Gives Books to Kids

Thanks to the local court, hundreds of children in Los Angeles County will receive popular and classic children's books this year.

Previously limited to distributing books at schools, Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) of Southern California is expanding its program to include courthouses. The Superior Court of Los Angeles County's Family Law Services Department applied for and received an RIF grant and is coordinating book storage and distribution. The new book program will serve children appearing for special custody evaluations at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse.

● For more information, contact the court's Public Information Office, 213-974-5227.

Court Briefs

Online Self-Help Gets Simpler

Finding information about the law and court procedures just got even easier with the introduction of an enhanced version of the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/).

The courts launched the improved site in January after simplifying the language and changing the format of the pages so that they are easier to read and navigate. Self-help materials and graphics were added to make the site more useful.

More than half of all the litigants who use courts in California—an estimated 4.3 million individuals—are self-represented. They often are unfamiliar with procedures and forms as well as with their rights and obligations, which can leave them disadvantaged in court and consume significant court resources. To assist the ever-increasing numbers of litigants who go to courts without legal counsel, in July 2001 the

Judicial Council and the AOC launched California's most comprehensive court-sponsored online self-help center. The site averages 400,000 page views per month and passed the 6 million mark in January.

NEW FEATURES

In addition to the more than 1,000 pages of tools, resources, and links for legal assistance already on the site, the redesigned and upgraded online self-help center now offers an expanded small claims section; additional forms and corresponding instructions; more question-and-answer pages; and domestic violence materials translated into Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

The managers of the self-help site have begun integrating its forms with other online filing projects in courts around the state, including EZLegalFile and I-CAN!. In addition, the site now includes many forms that can be filled in online and printed.

● For more information, visit www.courtinfo.ca.gov/self-help/, or contact Harry Jacobs, AOC's Center for Families, Children & the Courts, 415-865-7620; e-mail: harry.jacobs@jud.ca.gov. To order updated self-help site promotional materials, contact pubinfo@jud.ca.gov.

Solano Court's Guardianship Video

The Superior Court of Solano County in February released a new videotape to help self-represented litigants establish probate guardianships through the court system.

The 28-minute tape provides an overview of the process from start to finish, including:

- Completion and filing of forms;
- Service of process (whom to serve and how to serve); and
- Going to court.

The video also explains the differences between temporary guardianship and general guardianship and between guardianship of the person and of the estate.

The court created the videotape in collaboration with Solano County Counsel and the Solano County Public Guardian. The court engaged consultant Jan Bouch (now the assistant executive officer of the Superior Court of Sonoma County) to coordinate the project. Ms. Bouch then hired an independent film producer to write, direct, and produce the video, in which Solano court employees play many of the acting roles. The Judicial Council provided a Community-Focused Court Initiative Grant to fund the project.

With assistance from the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Solano court distributed two courtesy copies of the tape to every court executive officer in the state. Reaction to the video has been overwhelmingly positive. "There is a real personal touch, which makes it easy to watch," says Karen Blank, a staff attorney in the Superior Court of Yolo County. She also notes that the video provides good information on guardianship resources and offers a clear explanation of the services available to litigants.

Litigants agree. The court has received comments from self-represented litigants such as: "The video really helped me understand the part about serving notice to other people" and "That video was great—it helped us understand the whole process."

The court is making the tape available to the public at the offices of its investigator, clerk, and family law facilitator as well as at local county libraries.

● For more information on the video, contact Claudia Archer, Family Law Division,

Superior Court of Solano County, 707-421-7874; e-mail: carcher@solanocounty.com.

Copies of the videotape can be ordered from:

ICV Digital Media
Attn.: Darren Angus
3908 Valley Avenue
Pleasanton, California 94566
Phone: 925-426-8230
Facsimile: 925-426-8330

Court Communicator Network Growing

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) continues to improve the courts' Public Information Network (PINetwork). New network members and resources make it easier than ever for local court communicators to share information and expertise about court-community outreach, media relations, publications, and other subjects.

PINetwork consists of a listserve and companion Web site on Serranus. The listserve is an e-mail forum for sharing news and experiences among court communicators. The Web site (<http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/pin/>) includes sample publications and materials on media outreach and public speaking, as well as links to other sources for court staff involved in court-community communications.

Since PINetwork's inception a little more than a year ago, its membership has grown to 85 users representing 36 courts. In response to suggestions from these users, PINetwork now includes a subscriber directory, daily e-mail news "clippings," and links to court press contacts and a calendar of court-related events.

● To subscribe to PINetwork or for more information, visit <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/pin/>, or contact Mark Pothier, AOC's Office of Communications, 415-865-7448; e-mail: mark.pothier@jud.ca.gov.

Court Now in Session

The Superior Court of Riverside County on January 21 officially opened its new Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta. The 186,000-square-foot center is the first courthouse in the county to use an electronic docket. Visitors are greeted by three large video screens—not unlike those at airport terminals—that provide case numbers, locations, and times of hearings. The center includes 12 courtrooms, a jail, and a juvenile hall. *Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of Riverside County*



The California courts' public Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/ and Serranus, the courts' secure Web site, at <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/> continually add information to keep the public and the courts up to date on judicial programs and resources. Following are recent additions.

Action Plans for Self-Represented Litigants

See the action plans for serving self-represented litigants that local courts have prepared as part of their strategic planning process. <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/srl/>

Trial Court Information for Assigned Judges

Find an updated reference guide that active and retired judges can use to learn more about their assigned court locations. <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/ajp/index.htm>

Serranus Face-Lift

The Serranus home page has been redesigned to offer easier access to the site's most-requested information. It includes a new set of "useful links," quick-search functions, weekly calendars, and buttons for opening AOC publications. <http://serranus.courtinfo.ca.gov/>

Supreme Court Made Easy

The California Supreme Court in January released the 2003 edition of its public information booklet, which includes a concise description of the court's work, history, membership, and practices and procedures. The 57-page booklet—rewritten in plainer language to make it useful to a broader audience—also highlights technological changes that have improved the court's efficiency and enhanced public access.

● To view the Supreme Court booklet, visit www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/iopp.htm. For information on ordering a copy of the booklet, contact Carmen Kissinger, Supreme Court, 415-865-7023.



Interpreter Recruitment Campaign Wins Honors

The Governor’s Office on Innovation presented a Clarity Award to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for its statewide campaign to recruit court interpreters.

The Clarity Award program honors State of California departments and agencies that produce high-quality, easy-to-comprehend documents. Its goal is to simplify language used in state government materials, from pamphlets and loan applications to routine forms and regulations.

In partnership with New California Media, an association of ethnic media organizations, the AOC in June launched a campaign with the theme “One law, many languages.” The goal of the statewide campaign was to enlist the increasingly influential multilingual ethnic media to help recruit court interpreters. Campaign organizers placed advertisements on becoming a court interpreter in ethnic publications; held briefing sessions with publishers and broadcasters of ethnic news to discuss the most effective ways of communicating the need

for court interpreters to their audiences; arranged interviews between reporters and interpreters; translated public service announcements into six languages for ethnic broadcasters; and distributed posters with the recruitment information to ethnic civic groups, places of worship, neighborhood retail shops, legal and social aid societies, and other community organizations.

As a result of the campaign, visits to the interpreter pages of the California Courts Web site doubled (from 2,000 to 4,000) and phone inquiries to the AOC’s court interpreter unit quadrupled (from 25 to 100 calls per day).

● For more information on court interpreters, visit www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/courtinterpreters.



MILESTONES

Ellen M. Miller of the Superior Court of San Diego County became the first nonjurist and the first San Diegan to receive the Emil Gumpert Judicial Services Award from the Dispute Resolution Services Division of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

Ms. Miller, who designed and oversees the court’s civil mediation program, received the award for her “outstanding contribution to the expansion and maturing of high-quality dispute resolution services.” Ms. Miller implemented the local civil mediation program in February 2000 as part of a state project to remove the eligibility cap on mediation cases and test whether earlier judicial intervention would

improve the rate of settlement. She recently served in the state Judicial Council’s working group that developed ethical standards for mediators in court cases.

The Society of Professional Journalists (SJA), Northern California Chapter, honored **Chief Justice Ronald M. George** with its Norwin S. Yoffie Career Achievement Award for his long-standing efforts to make the California court system, court records, and the Judicial Council more accessible to the public. The Yoffie award is one of the chapter’s James Madison Freedom of Information Awards, which are presented to individuals and organizations that have promoted and defended free speech and public access to state and local government.

The Norwin S. Yoffie award recognizes that Chief Justice George broke with tradition in allowing journalists to interview the staff attorneys who research

and ghostwrite Supreme Court opinions and that he has made himself available to the media and to the public as a speaker. Most significantly, the SJA noted that Chief Justice George has pushed to make court information available on the Internet and has supported new California Rules of Court that create public access to Judicial Council meetings and to court budgetary records under the same principles as the California Public Records Act.

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) named Superior Court of Santa Clara County **Judge Stephen V. Manley** as the recipient of its Stanley M. Goldstein Hall of Fame Award. The award is a national honor bestowed on individuals who promote drug courts.

In honoring Judge Manley, the NADCP noted his work at the state level in promoting the California Drug Court Initiative grants and his service on the Executive Steering Committee for the Drug Court Partnership Program. President of the NADCP’s California chapter, Judge Manley oversees his county’s drug court and serves on the Proposition 36 Implementation Workgroup and the Judicial Council’s Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee.

Award. The award is presented annually to a state trial court judge who has made long-standing contributions to the improvement of the justice system and who has supported the mission of the NCSC.

The NCSC recognized Judge Ford, who retired from the Alameda County bench in November, in part for being a strong advocate for the use of technology in the courts. Ms. Ford is a past member and past chair of the Judicial Council’s Court Technology Advisory Committee, and between 1999 and 2002 she served on the national Joint Technology Committee, which is sponsored by the Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Association of Court Managers. Judge Ford led the committee’s efforts to develop the *Business Process Enhancements Guide and Manual for Courts*. She also is a former member of the board of Legal XML and was on the team that drafted the Standards for Electronic Filing Processes. ■

Adoption Day



The Superior Court of Sacramento County held its fifth annual Adoption Day on Saturday, February 1, at the William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse. The court, in addition to holding adoption proceedings, provided refreshments and activities including a clown, face painting, and art projects. The event established new homes for more than 140 children, bringing the total number of youth adopted through the court’s Adoption Day program to over 600.

Photo: Courtesy of the Superior Court of Sacramento County

Superior Court of Ventura County **Judge Colleen Toy White** was recognized by the Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation at its 10th annual David C. Fainer, M.D., Awards. The awards honor individuals who have made Ventura County a better place to live.

The foundation described Judge White as a “children’s defender, tireless community volunteer, and outstanding legal administrator. From safeguarding unborn children to abused kids, she goes the extra mile to help those who cannot help themselves.”

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) presented **Retired Judge Judith D. Ford** with its Distinguished Service

Broadcast Honors Dr. King



Robert Allen, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies and African-American Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, spoke on January 14 as part of an AOC-TV broadcast celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The live satellite broadcast, produced by the Center for Judicial Education and Research, explored Dr. King’s lessons for Americans in relation to current issues confronting the courts. In addition, it discussed the contributions of the civil rights movement to the justice system. Taped in front of a studio audience, the broadcast featured experts on Dr. King, dramatic readings from his speeches and writings, and live music.

Spread the News

Tell *Court News* about innovative programs and services at your court so that we can share your experience with your colleagues.

Send the information via mail to Blaine Corren, *Court News*, Administrative Office of the Courts, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3688, phone: 415-865-7449, fax: 415-865-4334, or e-mail: blaine.corren@jud.ca.gov.



Calendar

May 1 Law Day
May 12–16 Juror Appreciation Week

CONFERENCES

APR 9–10 Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, Detroit
MAY 2–4 California Judges Association Midyear Meeting, Palm Springs
MAY 2–4 California Court Association Convention, Riverside
MAY 5–9 National Judicial College: Traffic Issues, Reno
MAY 15–17 National Association of Drug Court Professionals Training Conference, Reno
JUN 9–11 2003 Traffic Adjudication Workshop, San Francisco
JUN 15–27 B. E. Witkin Judicial College, San Francisco

JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Judicial Council business meetings will be held at the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco unless otherwise noted.
APR 15 JUN 27
● Contact: Secretariat, 415-865-7640; e-mail: jcservices@courtinfo.ca.gov. Judicial Council meeting information is also posted on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/jc/.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

APR 28–MAY 2	New Judge Orientation, San Francisco	MAY 30	Leadership Expedition, Session V, Burbank
MAY 1	Managing @ Court: Conflict Management, Sacramento	JUN 4	Managing @ Court: Becoming a Leader, Sacramento
		JUN 5	Computer Class for Appellate Justices, San Francisco
MAY 5–9	New Judge Orientation, San Francisco	JUN 5–6	Training Coordinators Conference, San Francisco
MAY 7–9	Cow County Judges Institute, Sacramento	JUN 12	Leadership Expedition, Session VI, Online
MAY 8	Managing @ Court: Managing Diversity, San Francisco	JUN 12	Computer Class for Appellate Justices, Los Angeles
MAY 14	Managing @ Court: Interviewing Skills, Sacramento	JUN 18	Managing @ Court: Managing Diversity, Sacramento
MAY 15	Leadership Expedition, Session IV, Online	JUN 19	Labor and Employee Relations Regional Forum, Burbank
MAY 15–16	Computer Class for Judges, Los Angeles	JUN 20	Leadership Expedition, Session VII, Burbank
MAY 18–21	Domestic Violence Institute (location to be determined)	JUN 24	Labor and Employee Relations Regional Forum, San Francisco
MAY 21–22	Management Foundations, Sacramento	JUN 26	Labor and Employee Relations Regional Forum, Sacramento
MAY 28	Managing @ Court, Team Building, Sacramento		Note: Computer class students must have a Serranus identification number to participate.
MAY 28–30	Trial Court Judicial Attorneys Institute, Newport Beach		● Contact: CJER, 415-865-7745.

AOC-TV GUIDE

MAY 6, 9:00–10:00 a.m., Orientation to the Judicial Branch	MAY 27, 9:00–10:30 a.m., Staff Edition: Ethics Training	JUN 24, 9:00–10:30 a.m., Public Access and the Disabled
MAY 13, 9:00–10:00 a.m., California Courts News (CCN)	MAY 27, 3:00–4:30 p.m., Staff Edition: Ethics Training	JUN 24, 3:00–4:30 p.m., Public Access and the Disabled
MAY 14, 12:05–12:55 p.m., How to Tell If Someone Is Lying	JUN 3, 9:00–10:00 a.m., Orientation to the Judicial Branch	(Broadcast times are subject to change.)
MAY 20, 9:00–10:30 a.m., Integrated Disability Management, Part II	JUN 10, 9:00–10:00 a.m., California Courts News (CCN)	● For more information, contact Jay Harrell, 415-865-7753; e-mail: jay.harrell@jud.ca.gov .
MAY 20, 3:00–4:30 p.m., Integrated Disability Management, Part II	JUN 17, 9:00–10:30 a.m., Integrated Disability Management, Part III	
	JUN 17, 3:00–4:30 p.m., Integrated Disability Management, Part III	



COURT NEWS

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Administrative Office of the Courts
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